



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Arrests Made in Multi-State Consumer Fraud Scheme

San Bernardino, CA – After a six-month investigation, investigators with the San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office Specialized Prosecutions Group arrested Phillip Bovard, 33, of Upland and Luis Gutierrez, 39, of Rancho Cucamonga in a consumer fraud scheme. Gutierrez and Bovard were corporate officers of Imperial Outdoor Living, Incorporated, a manufacturer and seller of outdoor barbecue islands and patio home furnishings. The two sold products through home improvement shows in multiple counties in California and in Arizona and Nevada.

Consumers placed substantial down payments, ranging from \$500 to over \$7000, for products never delivered. Bovard and Gutierrez continued to solicit new customers and additional payments from lay-a-way accounts when the capacity to deliver the products no longer existed. Bovard and Gutierrez abandoned the customers of Imperial Outdoor Living, Incorporated, resulting in over \$350,000 in losses. Bail for the pair was set at \$1,000,000 each.

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